

Australia and CIAT: A Strategic Partnership in Research for Development



CIAT's long and productive history in agricultural research for development with Australia dates back to the early days of the Center. Work supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) has created substantial benefits for rural people in Southeast Asia and other parts of the developing world.

We are grateful to the Australian government for their steadfast commitment to impact-oriented initiatives carried out by CIAT over the years. We look forward to strengthening our partnership by continuing to align some of our initiatives more closely with Australian priorities, and we welcome continued efforts to identify opportunities for research and institutional cooperation with Australian research and development organizations and stakeholders. Together, we can make a difference in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by delivering solutions to hunger and poverty that strengthen global food security while helping adapt agriculture to climate change.

CIAT has a broad research mandate—encompassing agrobiodiversity, tropical soils, and policy analysis—and is continually expanding and improving its partnerships. Our research is closely aligned with the CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework, and our scientists are actively involved in many of the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs), including the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) and the programs on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS); Livestock and Fish; Roots and Tubers; Grain Legumes; Improved Nutrition and Health; Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics; and Water, Land and Ecosystems.

CIAT research initiatives supported by ACIAR and AusAID, since 1995

Project	Donor	CIAT Staff	Period	US\$ (in '000s)
International scientific journal Tropical Grasslands	ACIAR	Michael Peters	2012	100
SPSP: Increased Productivity and Reduced Risk in Pig Production and Market Chains for Improved Livelihoods in Lao PDR	ACIAR	Rod Lefroy, Tassilo Tiemann	2010–2014	481
RSLP: Developing Improved Farming and Marketing Systems in Rainfed Regions of Southern Lao PDR	ACIAR	Michael Peters	2009–2013	402
F4BP: Improved Feeding Systems for more Efficient Beef Cattle Production in Cambodia	ACIAR	Tassilo Tiemann	2008–2012	144
Potential for Smallholder Involvement in Cassava -based Agro-Industries in Eastern Indonesia	ACIAR	Rod Lefroy	2007	31
L4PP: Forage Legumes for Supplementing Village Pigs in Lao PDR	ACIAR	Tassilo Tiemann	2006–2010	204
Enhancing the Adoption of Improved Cassava Production and Utilization Systems in Indonesia and East Timor	ACIAR	Reinhardt Howeler	2004–2008	160
SOFT: Development of a Knowledge System for the Selection of Forages for Farming Systems in the Tropics and Subtropics	ACIAR	Michael Peters	2002–2005	100
Global Impact of Sown Tropical Grassland and Forage Plants	ACIAR	Michael Peters	2001–2013	63



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Developing Forage Technologies with Smallholder Farmers	ACIAR	Peter Kerridge	2001–2004	2
Global Post-Harvest Initiative Planning Meeting	ACIAR	Rupert Best	2001	10
FLSP: Forages and Livestock Systems Project Lao PDR	AusAID	Rod Lefroy	2000–2005	1132
SOL: Seeds of Life Program in East Timor	ACIAR	Reinhardt Howeler	2000–2005	50
Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of New Technologies Developed with Smallholders	ACIAR	Peter Kerridge	1999–2000	18
APSIM: Integrated Nutrient Management in Tropical Cropping Systems	ACIAR	Rob Delve	1999–2005	60
Stylo Anthracnose	ACIAR	Segenet Kelemu	1998–2001	31
Systemwide Program on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis	ACIAR	Jacqueline Ashby	1997–2003	33
Common <i>Bean</i> Germplasm: Trait Evaluation and Multivariate Analyses	ACIAR	Steve Beebe	1997–1999	44
FSP: Forages for Smallholders in Southeast Asia	AusAID	Peter Kerridge	1995–1999	3324

The funding support for CIAT has been mainly allocated for our work on tropical forages linked to smallholder livestock systems. Starting in 1992 and running through to 2005, there was a series of related projects—AusAID FSP-II, AusAID FLSP—that assessed a broad range of tropical forage germplasm for biological suitability to the region and then suitability of smallholder farmers in terms of management and use. This involved a wide range of researcher-managed on-station trials and farmer-managed on-farm trials across multiple locations in seven countries in Southeast and East Asia, namely Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Cambodia and China. These projects amounted to a proof of concept and then a proof of delivery; the Asian Development Bank (ADB) subsequently funded additional projects and then, based on the AusAID-funded proof of delivery project in Lao PDR, involved CIAT to help design a large livestock development project based on a loan.

This series of projects provided momentum to develop additional projects on extension methodology (implemented by Charles Sturt University, including a role for CIAT), animal health projects implemented by CSIRO, and animal nutrition and production projects implemented by CIAT (L4PP, RSLP, SPSP) or with a component implemented by CIAT (F4BP). Other CIAT activities supported by ACIAR include collaboration in publications of booklets and case studies, a study on anthracnose in *Stylosanthes guianensis*, the development of the Tropical Forages on-line Database with CSIRO and other partners, impact assessment studies in the face of the International Grasslands Congress 2013, and support to the international scientific journal Tropical Grasslands. Other contributions worth mentioning are crop modelling and recommendations based on the APSIM model, work on beans, support to the Seeds of Life program in East Timor—mainly for cassava, but also for beans—and a project on improved cassava production systems in Indonesia and East Timor.

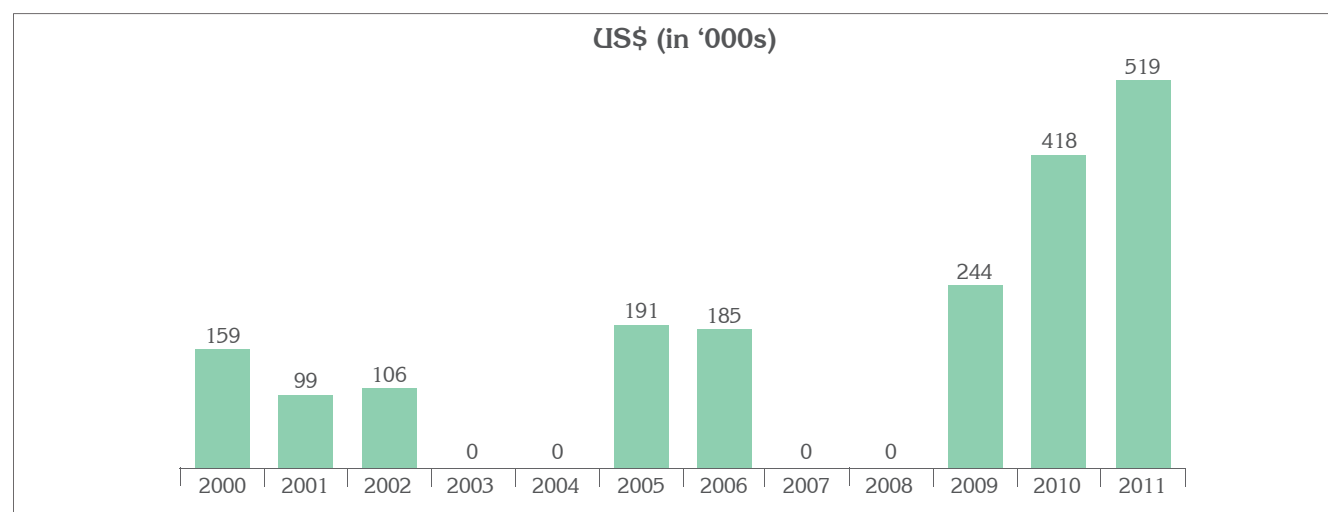
Impact-driven research has guided CIAT's agenda since it began projects in Asia more than 30 years ago. Innovative research for market-oriented agricultural development, conducted in close collaboration with national scientists, started with cassava and tropical forages as well as through access to germplasm collections held in trust by CIAT. These early activities led to productivity-focused research on crop improvement and resources management.

Our collaborative efforts have flourished, generating huge impacts on the livelihoods of the poor. Examples of these impacts include: (1) For cassava, a 90% adoption rate of improved varieties and production practices that created yield increases of up to 130%, fueling the region's cassava boom; (2) For forages, more than 15,000 farmers have turned subsistence farming into a productive, market-oriented enterprise for higher value products;

(3) For pest management, in response to emerging mealybug pest that cut cassava production by almost 25% across Thailand, CIAT scientists worked closely with partners on biological controls (parasitic wasp) to mitigate the outbreak.

Investment in research and research for development will continue to generate significant impacts on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and the sustainable management of natural resources in Southeast and East Asia.

To complement direct support for projects during a large part of the period 2000–2011, Australia provided unrestricted contributions to CIAT, which have been instrumental for the Center to deliver on its mandate, complementing the support from grants, particularly in Southeast Asia.



CIAT contacts

Rod Lefroy
Regional Coordinator for Asia
r.lefroy@cgiar.org

André Zandstra
Head, Resource Mobilization
a.zandstra@cgiar.org

CIAT Contacts Details

CIAT–Asia Office
c/o Vietnam Academy of
Agricultural Sciences
Vinh Quynh, Thanh Tri
Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone: +84 12 58262512
E-mail: r.lefroy@cgiar.org

CIAT–Africa Office
c/o ICIPE, Duviville Campus, off
Kasarani Road
P.O. Box 823-00621
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 8632800 or
+254 721574967
E-mail: r.buruchara@cgiar.org

CIAT–Central America Office
Residencial San Juan de Los Robles,
Casa #303
Apartado Postal LM-172
Managua, Nicaragua
Phone: +505 22709965 or
+505 22709963
E-mail: m.e.baltodano@cgiar.org

Headquarters
Km 17, Recta Cali-Palmira
Cali, Colombia
Phone: +57 2 4450000 (direct)
E-mail: ciat@cgiar.org
Web: www.ciat.cgiar.org

